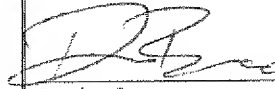


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: John E. WOODS et al.
Serial No.: 10/791,918
Title: SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR MANAGING INVESTMENT FUNDS
Filing Date: March 3, 2004
Art Unit: 3693
Examiner: J. A. Vezeris

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via EFS-Web to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the below date.



Davis Branco

Date: July 21, 2008

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed May 20, 2008, it is respectfully requested that the above-identified application be reconsidered in accordance with the remarks set forth below.

Claims 1-90 are pending in the present application.

The Office Action required restriction to one of the following groups of claims under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-18 and 37-39;
- II. Claims 19-27 and 40-47;
- III. Claims 28-36;
- IV. Claims 48-69;
- V. Claims 70-74;
- VI. Claims 75-80;
- VII. Claims 81-86;
- VIII. Claims 87-88; and
- IX. Claims 89-90.

Applicants hereby elect Group I, Claims 1-18 and 37-39 for prosecution, with traverse.

Applicants respectfully submit that the subject matter recited in the groups listed above is not independent or distinct, because the management of funds may be associated with an established mandate. For instance, with respect to various exemplary embodiments, the specification of the present application states that the mandate describes "the objectives set for the investment manager and recites the investment manager's powers and duties" (see specification, p.

20, ln. 23 to p. 21, ln. 1); "[c]apital 115 is invested in accordance with mandate 130 as set forth below to achieve the goals set by trustees 105" (see id., p. 24, lns. 19-21); and "[t]he goals of investment manager 120 are specifically defined in mandate 130" (see id., p. 27, lns. 22-23).

Further, in various exemplary embodiments, the mandate may be associated with monitoring the performance of the manager: "... trustees 105 determine whether investment manager 120 is complying with the terms of mandate 130 and monitor the performance of investment manager 120. Specifically, trustees 105 determine whether the predefined targets in mandate 130 are being met ..." (see id., p. 25 lns. 4-9).

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the subject matter recited in each of the groups of claims identified above is not independent or distinct, and respectfully traverse the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been presented and no new issues have been raised by the present response.

This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and the claims are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.


If any fee is due in connection with the present response, the Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge the requisite fee to our deposit account number 02-0393.

Prompt and favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 21, 2008

By:


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